National News-Leader

Vol. 1, No. 3 — DECEMBER, 1956 Published for the National Amateur Press Association by the President

New Building to House AJ Library and Keffer Printery

(Special to the News-Leader)

Still waters run deep, and silence in amateur journalism is often merely the prelude to an ambitious publication; but if you are wondering why the sudden and total cessation of publication from the erstwhile active mill at the Shady Acre Press, we'll scoop the Keffers themselves and divulge the secret.

Erected for Amateur Journalism

While lacking only a few finishing touches, Shady Acre now houses what is, to the best of our knowledge, the first large building ever constructed solely for the pursuit of amateur journalism. Built of cinder-block construction, 24 by 34 feet with a garage at one end; there is an unusually large attic, planned for paper storage and to take the overflow of amateur journals and the unofficial clearing house as all of the main room is to be devoted to active jouranlism. The presses and printing equipment are also located in this room.

Shades of the Spectrum

Willametta gets a bit lyrical when asked to describe the building and goes into details like rose-pink walls, deep green floor, furnishings in gray and green, with type stands and library "stacks" in walnut. The printery occupies one-half of the room, with the Library of Amateur Journalism, and a big double desk filling the other half. Twenty feet of fluorescent tubing takes care of the lighting, while wall outlets are for radio, extra lights and hot plates for coffee breaks.

Willametta insists that **Literary Newsette** has not been permanently discontinued, but you can tell where her interest lies when it is reported that the mimeograph equipment has not yet been moved into the new building.

Acquires Pearson Collection

On November 2nd Willametta and Martin Keffer motored to Guilford College, North Carolina to visit with James Larkin Pearson and his wife. While there they picked up the Pearson collection of journals from the time of his membership at the turn of the century. These will fill part of the gap in the Library and, added to the Burton Jay Smith and Burt Foote papers, makes the Keffer collection one of the more important private ones. The **Seedling** editor plans to catalog them, after more of the gaps are filled in, and says they are to go to a Southern University Library at her death, but before that she hopes to use them as source material for many articles for her own as well as other journals.

Bavardage Ed Disagrees With Editor Strictly Duerr

In commenting on President Paxton's new "mouth-piece" for the association, NAPA ex-president and old-time editor of **Bavardage,** Charles A. A. Parker said: "**National News-Leader** arrived this week and to use that overworked cliche—I found it interesting. I regret never having seen the first number and like every ajist I hate to miss a good thing as No 2 suggests. I have one criticism . . .the inside margin is too narrow for binding. Many papers have that same fault. It may be artistic and all that but it is not practical to those of us wishing to save in permanent form."

Emerson Duerr, editor of **Strictly Duerr**, thinks differently. He has this to say, "Paxtons **News Leader** is a fine paper, but it is only a throw-away and not a permanent record of NAPA doings as is the **NA**. The **NA** is preserved long after other aj papers have disappeared."

In asking Paxton for comment, he told this reporter: "It's just the way you look at it, Bub."

A New "Cat" for a New Printshop

Alf Babcock, in a recent letter says: "Some day I hope to get a chance to print another **Kitten** or **Cat**. I sort of think I should celebrate my new printshop with a **Cat**." We hope so too.

Brunsdon To Head NAPA Convention Committee Group

A half-dozen members of the Columbia Amateur Press Club met on November 11 at the home of Dalton V. Brunsdon, Convention Arrangements Chairman, 3648 Suitland Road, S. E., Washington, D. C. as the first official meeting to discuss plans and decide on the hotel for the 1957 Convention headquarters in July.

After much discussion of the hotels under consideration, the choice was narrowed to the Mayflower and Hotel Statler. Parking facilities, prices and others necessary items of accomodations were all taken into consideration but the final selection remains to be made after written confirmation of the hotel's agreement on facilities has been secured.

Committee heads appointed at the meeting by the chairman are: Arthur V. Isenberg, Finance; Stanley E. Coffin, Program; James A. Lemon, Promotion; Elizabeth Butt, Hotel Reservations, Registration and Decorations; Nat Pallone, Entertainment; Wm. F. Evans, Convention Pictures; Victor A. Moitoret, Hospitality and Reception; L. Verle Heljeson, Afterhours; Joseph F. Bradburn, Printing, and J. Rolfe Castleman in charge of Exhibits.

Brunsdon was appointed Chairman of Arrangements by President Paxton when he was in Washington on September 1.

National Mag Seeks Copy

According to a report received as we go to press with this issue, Alfred P. Babcock, editor and publisher of **Alf's Cat** and **Kitten**, the New York office of **Mechanix Illustrated** has inquired for information on "Hobby Printing" as they intend to publish an article on this subject. Alf reported he furnished the inquirer with "a lot of dope and the NAPA should get some nice publicity, but one never knows what he will say."

Alf is busy fixing up his basement and hopes to have a spacious, neat-looking and easy-to-use printshop when it is finished.

Fred Gage as Publicity Director Well Qualified; Plans Larger Pub

Frederick H. Gage, better known as Fred—of **The Gage Pin**, a native of Maine for 30 years, married and has a year-old daughter, Debbie. He was graduated from high school in '43, and sworn into the Navy in December of that year—the 7th! After two and a half years he was discharged and proceeded to go to college that Fall. Boston University gave him a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1950 and was signed on with the Lewiston Daily Sun, Maine's third largest daily, as a general staff reporter.

After almost three years with the Sun, he went to Wilton, where he accepted the position as editor of the Times—a lively weekly. While there (two years) that paper won several awards in the New England Weekly Press Association competition.

Two years ago he was enticed back to Lewiston as sports commentator for WLAM—Radio and TV station. Later Fred was named news editor of the station, the position he now holds. There are 17 newscasts daily, and he is on the air with five of these besides helping edit several others an a 6:15 sports show daily.

Let's hear Fred tell of his NAPA affiliation: "My interest in amateur journalism stems from news accounts of the NAPA convention in Portland in 1954. The stories whetted an inherent desire to play around with printing. I bought a 3x5 from Kelsey, joined the NAPA, and started my little **Gage Pin.**

"Last January, I took a longer step and bought a 7x11 Pearl treadle press made in Boston in 1888. I've added type and other equipment as small jobs came along. My hobby is now quite a sideline, with job printing slowing my amateur projects. But I intend to hit the bundle at least quarterly. . . and increase the dimensions of the **Gage Pin.**"

And what about Fred's two years in the NAPA. "My two years in the NAPA have given me many hours of pleasure, and I shall be glad to carry my share of the work-load to keep the amateur world spinning." And we think he's just the type to do it too!

Short Squibs

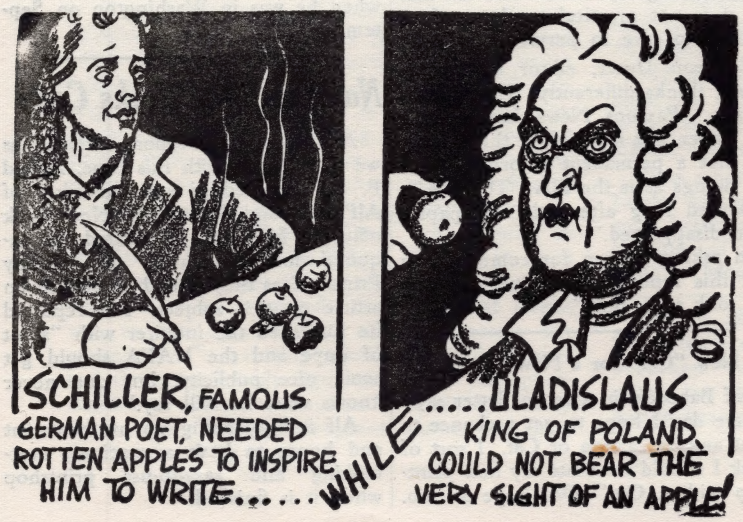
Mike White looks ten years younger than he did ten years ago—he is thriving on retirement.

Jack Coolidge is temporarily teaching art in the Berkshires. He can be reached: c/o P. H. Sherwood, Yale Hill, Stockbridge, Mass.—Dorrie.

Nona D. Spath and new member, Alice Julian, both had a poem in the column, "Sun Spots," in the Waukegan (Ill.) News Sun recently. Nona's contribution, "Talkathon" began: (Scientist says women live longer than men because they talk more); while Alice's "Pebble Treasure" was about "assorted stones," "memories" "lake waters" and the things they conjure to the poet. Both quite good.

Word comes from several sources that Beecher Ogden, 84 on Dec. 5th, escaped a serious operation recently.

The Clyde Noels plan a trip to Vancouver, Canada the first week in December.


SCHILLER, FAMOUS GERMAN POET, NEEDED ROTTEN APPLES TO INSPIRE HIM TO WRITE..... WHILE
.....LADISLAUS KING OF POLAND, COULD NOT BEAR THE VERY SIGHT OF AN APPLE!

Keffer's Korner

Stan Oliner alerted me to be at home Saturday morning, November 10th, as he was traveling to Columbia, Missouri with the University of Colorado football train and would call me. He went home a frustrated freshman, unable to get a line out of town, but I had a bright side to the whole thing as I received two other long distance calls that would otherwise have been missed. One was from Julia Lengle in Louisiana, and this made the charmed third time Julia had tried to reach me. Once she spent hours in Roanoke trying to locate Route Five right after the phone company had changed our number, and the new holders of that number were not at home to tell Julia she was calling a wrong number.

* * *

Joe Curran has been visiting amateurs around the country now that he has gotten back into the hobby. Recently he has visited with Rusty in Springfield, Marion Snyder in Lebanon and Bob Dunlap and Frank Egner in Cincinnati. On a trip tthrough Anna, Ohio, he stopped off to see Burt Foote but he happened to be away that day.

* * *

Burt Foote's daughter, Jeanette, was injured in a head-on collision on October 11; the other driver was a 16-year-old boy in an old car with one headlight out; he couldn't read or write. We'd say he couldn't drive either. Both cars were wrecked beyond repair but Jeanette escaped with a broken nose, a cracked right wrist and a broken right kneecap.

* * *

President Paxton's eldest daughter, Norma Lee, was injured by another car on October 15, while on her honeymoon. While they were stopped behind a school bus a speeding car from Illinois plowed into the back of their car. Both she and her husband escaped serious injury, but Norma is still taking supervisory medical treatment and has not been able to return to her work.

The National News-Leader

Published by RUSSELL L. PAXTON, 6 SUNSET VILLAGE, ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

News items and articles of interest about amateur journalists are wanted. Send them in regularly to the editor-publisher for future issues of this publication.

SECOND REPORT

BUREAU of CRITICS . . .

G. Wallace Tibbetts has been twisting the tails of various sacred cows for some time past, with indifferent results. Now we see in **Spectator** No. 43 that L. Verle Heljeson is having his jerk at the same appendages. Whether or not these bovines turn and attack with lowered horns or amble serenely over by the fence and chew placid cuds remains to be seen, but we think these antics one of the brighter spots in current ajay papers.

As a follow-up to Heljeson's piece, **Strictly Duerr** for September is the most hilarious bit of slapstick we've read in many a moon. We defy anyone who remotely guesses what it's all about to skim through this gem and not emerge chuckling, if not hooting uproariously.

Milton Grady does a fine bit of writing in a short article, "The Manuscript Bureau" in **Spectator** No. 43, the kind of concise, informative essay we need.

Paul E. Heir in his **North Carolina Deadhead** treats us to a rather rambling discourse, followed by two issues of **The North Carolina Advocate** which contains some excellent material. His own article, "Thought Waves and Their Source" is a challenging summary of various beliefs in spirits and their influence; well-written and worth more than a cursory reading. His serialized piece on socialized medicine is another through-provoking item, having a ring of sincerity that cannot be shrugged away. Cecile Eris Ryan contributes a poignant fragment on "Memories" and Dorothy B. Winn a delightful travelogue called "Small Canvass of North Carolina" which is extremely well-done.

Helen Maring's "A Walk in the Moonlight" in **Cerebrations** is a nostalgic little poem, calling back from the dark limbo of half-forgotten memories just such a stroll. (Incidentally, Carla Patsuris wants you to know that she, and not Helen Maring, wrote the poem, "Patience" in **Seattle Amateur**, upon which we commented in our first report.)

Paula Nelson's poem, "Invocation" in **Proofread** No. 15 is a delicate morsel of philosophy recorded in sensitive lines.

Nellie E. Duffy in **The Jayhawk Journal** No. 6 contributes just about the best story we've seen in ajay to date. "The White Devil Man" has authentic atmosphere, apt characterization, suspense and drama. The only fault we might point out (and diffidently, since this is really superb writing) is that a stronger climax would have made the piece truly professional. If the courageous Emma had slapped Chief Colorow's face smartly, humiliating him before his companions and thus causing his crestfallen retreat, it would have been more effective than having her husband appear at the precise moment the Indian neeeded chastising. "The White Devil Man" bears re-reading.

"Wishful Thinking" by Pearle Herrington in the same issue indicates what can be done with limited space. A good bit of writing. Note, however, that the third paragraph is superfluous. An author should not intrude to tell us something about a heroine. Let the reader absorb the information through dialogue, conversation or introspection of the characters.

The All Amateur American, Vol. 15, No. 1, carries a short article by Dr. Lemuel O. Granada titled "Prescription for Deadheads," which, though vague in parts to the uninitiated, closes with this pertinent sentence: "The writers are only waiting for the publishers." This bolsters one of our pet themes—that no publisher need be without suitable material when a two-cent postcard to any writer listed will bring copy for consideration.

The Junior Journalist, Vol. 11, No. 1, again printed by Alan Harshaw, now recovered from his accident, gives belated (understandably) reporting on the Minneapolis Convention. Amateurish in spots, this paper is an enterprising project.

"A Rainy Day" by Carolyn Moitoret, Grade Five, has a delightful sing-song rhythm dear to the hearts of children. It is refreshing to read such a fine effort by a poet-in-the-making. On the back page of this untitled paper, published by Janet McKinlay of New Zealand, we find a rather

The Lost Friend

There in a muddy, vacant lot
Stood Pegasus, of stone—
Chipped and scarred, remembering
The long flights he had known,
Lonely and alone.

I used to go along the street
And promise him, "Someday
I'll have a windy garden
On a hill where you can stay."
The years pushed me away.

And now I have the hilltop,
The garden of my own—
Oh hooves of muted thunder,
Imprisoned wings of stone—
I search and find you gone.

—ROWENA AUTRY MOITORET

(*Reverie*, December, 1951)

touching tribute to the Moitorets, indicating the nucleus of what may develop into smooth writing.

"Candles in the Sky" by Florence G. Mann in **The Cornerstone** has a charming thought, and the last line is especially melodious. While "Hill Woman," same paper, October, was written by Candace T. Stevenson and not Florence G. Mann, we imagine the latter would be proud to have been able to claim authorship, as this is a magnificent poem—well done, with universal appeal and crystal-clear imagery not lightly forgotten. Macie Bartlett contributes a poem to this issue, entitled "Our Beloved Daughter" which is pregnant with such tragedy that one overlooks the slight imperfections such as inversion, contraction and rather extended length, and our only response to the poem in its entirety is heartfelt sympathy. "The Bridge," a poem in couplets by Rockwell B. Schaefer is competent and voices a comforting thought. Hyman Bradofsky contributes an extremely well-written character study, "A Little Boy"—the kind of vivid, sense-stirring writing we ardently hope to see more of.

We reeled a little when we'd finished reading "Printing as a Hobby" by Steve L. Watts in his **Pastime Printer**. Unaccustomed as we are to such a barrage of words from self-styled amateurs, we were enthralled and almost overcome by the articulate and gusty prose liberally peppered with such as, "an ald klunk and a shirttailful of type," "dinkum idler," "rouncy buggy-striped hand squeezer," "blancoed pachyderm" and "gimcrack nifties of the 1880's." May the gifted master of Skyline Bend Farm apply himself assiduously and immediately—and give us more!

A. S. Fick presents a nostalgic article on Thornton Burgess in **Shambler** No. 1, recalling the sunny trails of childhood where we wandered in happy belief in Peter Rabbit and all the other Green Meadow characters. No. 2 carries a prose-poem called "Fall Plowing," a soliloquy we wouldn't have missed.

From Surrey, England, A. L. Shearn does a masterly job on **Ye Golden Sentinel**. His flawless English and absorbing discussion of a variety of topics make this a fine paper.

Two fiction stories of professional quality are "You're a Hero, Queer," by John R. Brann, and "The Mob" by James Lemon. The first has a rollicking humorous style that makes for rib-tickling reading. The second is a tragic allegory, sombre, tense, and frightening, written in the first person with terrifying clarity. The last two lines appear to us to be out of character; but taken as a whole this is an extremely able composition.

"While Still There's Time," an editorial in **Interleaves** by Frederick Folger Thomas Jr., is a poignant and sincere tribute to amateur journalism which is to be treasured. One statement stands out, in our opinion, and clearly expresses our contention: "... writing affords the highest aims and the most durably significant of all the opportunities of amateur journalism." While some may debate Mr. Thomas' viewpoints, none will deny the beauty of his prose.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"Thanks for your comments of "Denvaria" which is meant to be what you think of it. Also Cornelius' **Calendar**. I too wish there were more local clubs like ours for it really is an exciting stimuli for all of us and so much fun too... as well as promoting more and better contributions, which we hope are appreciated in the manner meant. ¶However we are **really** going to **beef** if all of our entries are thrown out this **third** year [in the laureate contests]. After all the **Colorado Round-up** is strictly done by paid-up members of CAPC and NAPA and not a wife or cousin contributing for half of the work done and the one other is the member being recognized. This time we won't accept the edicts as we have previously I'm sure! Them's battlin' words!—**Petey (Pauline) Kerr**

NAPA WRITERS ACTIVE

"In the last issue of Candor Magazine, published in Dexter, Missouri, the following NAPA members had poems printed: W. F. Evans, Paula Nelson, Nona D. Spath, Rockwell B. Schaefer, Alice Julian. Have read every word of the **National News-Leader** and find it interesting.—**Nona Spath**

HAVE YOU SEEN HER VIGNETTE?

"I am desirous of locating two Vignettes submitted to NAPA manuscript manager, whose name I can't recall—but the one before Milton Grady. Nearly three years since then, and as I have not seen the Vignettes in any of the papers ... it appears that they are lost unless someone is still holding them for his paper. Whatever the reason, I wish them returned.—**Mrs. Pearl A. Franklin**, 71 E. Talmadge Ave., Akron 10, Ohio

"THE NOT-SO-DEAD SWANS"

Get it? Anyway, that is the heading on a card received at this office the last of October and it was signed by: Bob Kunde, Brauner & Lexy, Irma A. Keehn, Blanche & Emerson Duerr, Alice Mae Waite, Dorrie, Fred C. Eichin, Hairet Gilmore, C. L. Thomsen, Zita LeCompt. Thanks for the card Fred, and we hope NAPA hears more from all of you.

"Thanks very much for the good reading material you have sent me. Will be looking forward to the arrival of the next bundle.—**Mrs. Ethel H. Ulrich**, Canon City, Colo.

"Just a note to say we enjoy the **National News-Leader** in the NAPA bundle. It helps us to become better acquainted as we read about the many activities of the members. ¶We hope to see it often.—**(Mrs.) Violet Marr Simpson**

All in all, we feel that publications received for review are showing an upsurge in content, that publishers are searching for fresh talent, that writers are cooperating nobly, and that the organization has much to be proud of.

—Helen E. Middleton
—G. Wallace Tibbetts